

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 21-23, and 27-50 are pending in the application.

Claims 19, 20, 24-27, 30, and 31 are rejected.

Claims 28, 29, and 32-39 are objected to.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 15, 16, 17, 21, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 37, 42, 43, 45, 48, 49, and 50 have been amended. Claims 1, 7-8, 15-17, 21, 33-34, 37, 42-43, 43, and 48-50 have been amended to correct minor errors in the claim.

Claims 19, 20, and 24-26 have been cancelled.

Claim Objections

Claims 28-29 and 32-39 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Office Action, p. 6. Claims 28 and 32 have been so rewritten. Claim 29 depends from claim 28, and claims 33-39 depend from claim 32. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be allowable.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)


Claims 19, 20, 24-27, 30, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Nguyen et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,594,279. Applicant has canceled claims 19, 20, and 24-26. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Claims 27, 30, and 31 now depend from claim 28, which has been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, claims 27, 30, and 31 are patentable over the cited art by virtue of their dependence upon allowable claim 28.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5087.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 18, 2006.


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